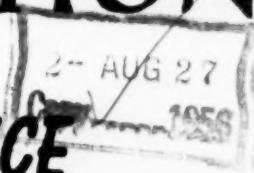


AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

PUBLISHED BY THE

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION SERVICE

31 EAST 69th STREET • NEW YORK 21, N.Y. • TELEPHONE: LEHIGH 5-4120



VOL. IX, NO. 14

August 18, 1956

THE ORGANIZATION OF THE FEDERAL ARMY. According to an announcement by Minister of Defense Ferdinand Graf, the Ministry of National Defense will be divided into three sections: Section I will be in charge of general administrative and legal matters, personnel and reserves, and military intelligence.

Section II will be responsible for organizing and training the Federal Army. It will in turn be divided into a Command Group and into Arms Inspectorates. The head of this Section will also have the functions of an Inspector General of Troops.

Section III will consist of a Supply Group and a Technical Military Services Office. It will be concerned with all problems involving arms, equipment, food supply, clothing and health.

The Federal Army will be organized in three groups, the commanders of which will have their headquarters in Vienna, Graz and Salzburg.

Group I will include Brigade No. 1 in Eisenstadt, capital of Burgenland, Austria's easternmost federal unit, Brigade No. 2 in Vienna and Brigade No. 3 in Krems, Lower Austria.

Group II will include Brigade No. 5 in Graz, capital of Styria, and Brigade No. 7 in Klagenfurt, capital of Carinthia.

Group III will include Brigade No. 4 in Linz-Hoersching, Upper Austria, Brigade No. 6 in Innsbruck, capital of Tyrol, and Brigade No. 8 in Salzburg.

AUSTRIAN AIR FORCE COMMAND CREATED. Defense Minister Ferdinand Graf has established an Air Force Command whose functions will be coordinated with those of Section II of the Defense Ministry. At the same time, a group of experts and officers of the air unit paid a visit to the Fiat aircraft works in Turin, Italy, which is one of the plants submitting offers for supplying the Austrian Air Force Command with planes. The experts had an opportunity to inspect the latest Italian models and to fly the modern "turbojet planes" manufactured by Fiat.

THE NEW ADMINISTRATION OF NATIONALIZED INDUSTRIES. The Austrian Parliament has passed a law establishing a Federal Ministry of National Defense and reorganizing the jurisdictions of various other Federal ministries. The new National Defense Ministry will handle all military matters, which had hitherto been the responsibility of the Federal Chancellery. The greater part of the law, however, deals with the administration of the nationalized industries, including the oil fields, which had previously come under the Ministry

(Continued on following page)

TWO EUROPEAN COUNCIL COMMITTEES TO MEET IN VIENNA. The General Affairs Committee of the European Council has accepted the invitation of its Austrian members to hold its next meeting September 12-16 in Vienna. The organization's Committee for Economic Affairs will also convene in Vienna at the same time.

AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT PROTESTS TO PRAGUE. The Austrian envoy in Prague has handed the Czechoslovak Foreign Affairs Ministry a note from the Austrian Government protesting against the shooting of the Austrian citizen Josef Heinrich by Czechoslovak border guards.

The text of the note reads in part as follows: "On July 1, 1956, Josef Heinrich of Vienna, an Austrian citizen, together with his wife and two minor sons, in obvious ignorance of the exact boundary line, approached the barbed-wire entanglement on Czechoslovak territory and were ordered to halt by the Czechoslovak border guards. When Heinrich turned around, the guards fired at him and wounded him fatally... This incident has caused deep concern on the part of the Austrian people and the Austrian Government... There was no reason for opening fire on a man who had approached the Czechoslovak frontier barriers in broad daylight and in the company of his wife and two minor children... The irresponsible action of the Czechoslovak border guards is out of all proportion to the error which Heinrich may have committed in crossing the border... The Austrian Government considers it important to call the attention of the Government of the Czechoslovak Republic to the seriousness of the situation created by this and similar incidents. The insecurity created on the Austrian-Czechoslovak border by the actions of the Czechoslovak authorities is of a nature to place the heaviest possible strain on relations between Austria and Czechoslovakia."

The note concludes with a demand that compensation be paid to the survivors of the slain school custodian Josef Heinrich.

POLISH AIRMEN SEEK ASYLUM IN AUSTRIA. Karol Kruk, 22, and Bogdan Biskupski, 21, trainees of the Polish Air Force, landed their training craft near Unterbergern, Lower Austria, on July 28. Both asked for political asylum. At about the same time, Leszek Scachogluchowicz, 23, and Eugen Demski, 21, safely landed their Jat 18 in a clump of trees (see cut) 100 miles to the southeast, near Kirchberg, Lower Austria. They, too, asked for asylum, explaining that the two planes had taken off together and that both had intended to fly as far as Munich but had lost their way over

Czech territory. However, "all's well that ends well," they said.



REFUGEES STILL PENETRATING THE IRON CURTAIN.

On August 1, a refugee from Czechoslovakia crossed the border into Austria by hiding behind empty barrels in a sealed freight car. The refugee, 26-year-old Miroslav Zdebezný, has requested political asylum.

- OR WHAT REMAINS OF IT. On August 1, toward 7 p.m. an automobile crossed into Austrian territory near Deutsch-Schuetzen on the Hungarian border, where Hungarian soldiers recently began work on removing the barbed-wire entanglements. The occupants of the car were a man and a young girl, Karl Ujvari and Susanne Ver, who requested political asylum. Their flight was apparently unnoticed by the Hungarian border guards.

PRISONERS RETURN. On August 2, two Austrians who had been detained in Czechoslovakia since 1951, were handed over to the Austrian authorities at the border near Gmuend. The men, brothers Franz and Johann Valentich of Vienna, had been arrested in 1951 while visiting relatives in Bratislava and sentenced to five years in prison for alleged espionage.

ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENT WITH U.S. PUT INTO EFFECT. The agreement to remain in effect for five years and renewable upon mutual consent, provides for an exchange of information on the planning, construction and operation of experimental reactors and their use in research, technology and medicine, as well as on problems of health and safety in connection with the use and operation of experimental reactors and on the use of radioactive isotopes in physical and biological research, agriculture and industry.

Within the framework of this agreement, Austria will also be given the opportunity to obtain, on a loan basis, up to 6 kg. of enriched uranium 235, a product required as

DR. CALICE, AUSTRIAN CONSUL GENERAL IN N.Y., RECALLED TO VIENNA. Consul General Dr. Heinrich Calice has been recalled to Vienna. Dr. Eduard Schiller, formerly counselor at the Austrian Embassy in Washington, has been nominated to succeed Dr. Calice, who will assume new functions at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Dr. Calice, scion of a family of diplomats -- his grandfather was Ambassador at Constantinople, his father Envoy to The Hague and Budapest -- was Deputy Legal Adviser of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Vienna when he was called upon to serve in New York in February 1953, first as Consul, later as Consul General.

a starting material and substitute fuel in the operation of reactors for research purposes.

The New Administration of Nationalized Industries

(Continued from preceding page)

of Communications and Nationalized Industries.

The Austrian People's party and the Socialist party have entered into a new coalition agreement based on the results of the elections of May 13, 1956. This agreement provides for a redistribution of the activities of some of the branches of the Federal establishment. A very important provision is that some of the nationalized industries, which were a major source of contention during the election campaign, will come under the joint control of the Government coalition.

On the principle that executive power and economic activities should be kept separate and in keeping with administrative considerations, it was decided to establish a limited liability company in which the State would be the sole stockholder. The State will be represented in this company by the Government, which will constitute the General Meeting of the organization. The company will operate under the name of "Industrie- und Bergbau GesmbH" (Industry and Mining Administration Company) and will appoint a Board of Directors which will include the Federal Chancellor (People's party), the Vice-Chancellor (Socialist party), the Minister of Finance (People's party), the Minister of Social Welfare (Socialist), the Minister of Trade (People's party) and the Minister of Communications and Power (Socialist party). Members of the Government may not be appointed to the Board of Directors as individuals but only as executives of their respective Government departments. The decisions of the Board of Directors require a majority vote. As the chairman of the Board, the Chancellor will have the deciding vote in the event of a tie.

Appointment to the Board of Directors will be an honorary one for members of the Government. According to the Trade Register, the Industry and Mining Administration Company is a private company, but its board of directors will be appointed by law.

The law also provides that the distribution of the profits of the nationalized enterprises will be one of the responsibilities of the Board of Directors and, consequently, of the six Ministers constituting the Board.

The law relative to the reorganization of ministerial jurisdictions also provides that broadcasting, hitherto handled by the Ministry of Communications and Nationalized Industries (now the Ministry of Communications and Power), is to be

controlled by the Federal Government as a whole, especially as regards basic principles of programming and technical development. The establishment of a broadcasting company is currently in the planning stage. This company will operate transmitters under license from the Ministry of Communications and Power. The influence of the Federal Government on programming will be limited by law.

FIRST MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR NATIONALIZED INDUSTRIES. A constituent meeting was held recently under the chairmanship of Chancellor Julius Raab by the Board of Directors of the Industrie- und Bergbau GesmbH (Industry and Mining Administration Company), which will be in charge of administering the Government's share rights in nationalized industry. The Board is made up of six members of the Government. The corporation's trusteeship agreement with the State was unanimously approved. Agreement was also reached on the financial structure of this holding company as well as on the prerogatives of the Board of Directors and the management.

U.S. ARMY SECRETARY IN VIENNA. Wilber M. Brucker, Secretary of the United States Army, arrived at Schwechat airport on July 27 for a one-day unofficial visit to Vienna. The Secretary paid a visit to the Museum of War History and was received by Austrian Defense Minister Ferdinand Graf.

PROMINENT VISITORS TO AUSTRIA. Vienna has been a focal point of diplomatic activity during the past two months. The list of official visitors to the city has included Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia, Prime Minister Robert Menzies of Australia, Foreign Minister H. C. Hansen of Denmark, Foreign Minister Hamidal Huq Khoudhury of Pakistan, Maurice Faure, Undersecretary of State in the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and H. V. R. Iengar, Undersecretary of State in the Indian Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Prominent among the unofficial visitors were the King and Queen of Greece, at Gmunden in Upper Austria; the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, at Fuschi in Land Salzburg; and Dr. Geoffrey F. Fischer, Archbishop of Canterbury, at Vienna and Gmunden.

ESTABLISHMENT OF "POLITICAL ACADEMY" PROPOSED IN SALZBURG. According to detailed proposals recently advanced by competent quarters in Salzburg, it is planned to establish an international academy for political science which would give Austrian and foreign high school graduates training for work in the political, social welfare, diplomatic and consular fields. Under the plan, a course of study at the academy would lead to the awarding of a Government-recognized diploma and later to a doctor's degree.

The proponents of the project indicated that an international foundation would have to be organized for the purpose of meeting the costs which would be involved. They pointed out that an academy of this kind would be of great importance in training future political officials, journalists and communications specialists. It has also been suggested that one of the principal tasks of such an institution would be to contribute to the clarification of problems connected with the standardization of European law.

CONTINUED DECLINE IN UNEMPLOYMENT. The Ministry of Social Welfare announces that as of the end of July 1956, there was a total of 68,072 registered job seekers. Of this number, 26,602 (39.1 per cent) were men and 41,470 (60.9 per cent) were women. Compared with the end of June 1956, the total figure decreased by 5,528, or 7.5 per cent. Of the last-mentioned number, 3,152 (57 per cent) were women. The number of registered job applicants is 3,527 (or 4.9 per cent) lower than it was at the end of July 1955.

LABOR MARKET BECOMES BOTTLENECK. In contrast to the situation one year ago, there was a relatively marked reduction in the labor market during June. The number of employed rose by 26,000 to a total of 2.18 million. Hiring of new personnel was especially intensive among workers in the construction industry as well as in the restaurant and hotel trades. By the middle of 1956, the unemployment rate was a mere 3.3 per cent and 26,000 workers in this category are employable only on a limited basis. While unemployment is somewhat higher than last year in the typical short-supply professions (farm workers, construction workers, metal workers), there has been a pronounced decrease in the labor surplus available to the consumer goods industries. In May 1956 the average work week was 47.1 hours, as against 47.3 hours in 1955.

During April, industrial production rose by 9.5 per cent, i.e. nearly 5 per cent more than the seasonal rise normally expected. This year the highest production increases were in the tobacco, vehicle and building materials industries, whereas last year they were in the vehicle, foundry and machinery industries. On the whole, there continued to be a noticeable reduction in the domestic demand for capital goods. Following the expiration of the special farm loan, agriculture is also purchasing less capital goods. On the other hand, the Consolidated Austrian Steel Works (VOEST) is expanding its raw steel capacity, and high-grade steel plants are proceeding with the installation of new electric furnaces and rolling mills. To an increasing degree, however, the expansion of production in the Austrian capital goods industry is being promoted by the favorable export situation. Production in the textile, clothing and furniture industries was higher than the expected seasonal level. The production index reached the record figure of 241 (1937 = 100), being 9 per cent higher than in April 1955.

SALZBURG ECONOMY ABSORBS FORMER USFA EMPLOYEES. 5,000 former employees of the U.S. Forces in Austria (USFA) have found their way back to local employment, according to the Salzburg State Employment Office. In a general survey, the report stresses that seasonal conditions can be described as extremely satisfactory and that sources of available man power have practically been exhausted. Noting the existence of a pronounced shortage in labor of all types, the survey indicates that last year's acute fears concerning the lot of the approximately 5,000 USFA employees have completely disappeared. All of these have found new positions and their separation has had practically no effect on the labor market.

RESULTS OF AUSTRIAN CONSUMER POLL. A comprehensive consumer poll for 1954-55 was recently published jointly by the Central Statistical Office and the Institute for Economic Research. Its 127 closely printed pages tell everything about what the Austrian consumer does with his money. Its figures and tables refer to the findings obtained in 40 Austrian cities. It was ascertained that the average Austrian family's monthly budget is approximately 2,150 schillings, an average household consisting of 2.9 persons. (The official exchange rate is 26 schillings for one dollar; the figures arrived at in this report are given in schillings because, although the Austrian standard of living is of course lower than the American, a misleading picture would result if simply the corresponding dollar amounts were given. Thus, if a break-down of the above mentioned figures shows the surprisingly low amount of 750 schillings per month being spent for living expenses on a per capita basis — food, rent, clothing, miscellaneous purchases and vacations included —, it has to be borne in mind that some basic items notably rent, food and railroad fares, are cheaper than in the U.S. For example, more than 70% of Viennese families live in rent-controlled 2-4 room apartments priced at 2-6 dollars per month.)

Consumer buying is not the same in all Austrian cities. The average monthly expenditures in Vienna were 2,093 schillings as against 3,306 in Dornbirn. Although the average household in Western Austria is larger by 0.5 persons than in Vienna, so that as a rule it has more members earning an income, the results, nevertheless, show a definite drop as we proceed from West to East.

Even within the individual social groups there are differences in the level of expenditures. The average budget of the self-employed is 2,857 schillings per month, that of office personnel and civil servants 2,556 schillings, that of workers 2,057 schillings and that of pensioners and annuitants 1,532 schillings. Relatively the highest outlay for food is made by worker families, where it amounts to 53 per cent, as against 46 per cent in the families of office employees and civil servants, who spend least for this purpose. As is to be expected, the types of outlay do not increase uniformly as the level of income goes up. It has been found, for example, that in households with the largest outlay as compared with those living on a budget of less than 1,000 schillings, the consumption of potatoes increased by only 19 per cent whereas that of alcoholic beverages rose by no less than 268 per cent.

Contrary to the popular assumption, these statistics seem to prove that two cannot eat as cheaply as one, relatively speaking. For instance, households consisting of just one person spend only 44.2 per cent of their total budget on food, those with two persons spend 47 per cent, those with three adults 49 per cent and those with three adults and a child 50 per cent.

The statistics also show that, on the average, a recipient of income has to support practically the equivalent (0.81) of a second person besides himself. Approximately 40 per cent of all recipients of income are women; in the case of pensioner and annuitant households women are in the majority.

90 PER CENT LIBERALIZATION IN EFFECT. Complying with a recommendation by the Council of the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) dated June 8, 1956, Austria has liberalized the importation of the following items: cellulose glass and cellophane, lathes, sunglasses and tube glass blanks for eyeglasses, semifinished products made of alloy steel and quality carbon steel, certain types of welded tubing, ball and roller bearings (except those for bicycles), diamond tools, semifinished products of aluminum, copper, molybdenum and tungsten, certain internal-combustion engines, polyphase induction motors, welding machines, hearing aids and duplicating equipment.

By these measures, Austria has carried out the 90 per cent liberalization obligation limited to a period of 18 months as decided on by the OEEC Council in January 1955. The period has been extended to the end of 1957 during the consultations held on the ministerial level in Paris from July 17 to 19.

DELIVERIES TO THE SOVIET UNION. During the first year of her contractual deliveries to the Soviet Union under the State Treaty, Austria has filled delivery orders amounting to a total of \$25,441,007.74. Among other things, this delivery program covered 300,000 tons of petroleum, 7,500 tons of steel plate, 7,500 tons of galvanized sheet metal, 1,000 tons of rolled copper products, 1,000 km. of power cable, 1,600 tons of rayon yarn, 2,600 tons of nitrocellulose lacquer, chemical equipment worth \$188,533.30, 300 mobile compressors, paper machinery and spare parts worth \$2,522,417. 63, wood processing machinery and spare parts worth \$808,849.83, electric measuring instruments worth \$792, 240.25, 130 refrigerator cars with traction engines, spare parts for motor vehicles worth \$119,249.03, 101,862 pairs of men's and women's shoes, and 766,400 meters of rayon fabric.

As of July 24, 1956 (the delivery year ends on July 27, 1956), Austria had handed over or shipped to the Soviet Union goods representing a total value of \$25,090,184.08, i.e. 652,344,786.08 Austrian schillings. This means that Austria has not only fulfilled her commitments, but has also transferred and shipped an additional 90,000 dollars' worth of goods, to be credited to her second delivery year.

39 PER CENT OF AUSTRIA'S OIL OUTPUT GOES TO SOVIET UNION. Austrian oil production during the first half of 1956 totalled 1,661,243 tons. Of this amount, 650,000 tons (39%) went to the Soviet Union in the form of contractual deliveries under the State Treaty. A few thousand tons were shipped to Czechoslovakia under an earlier commitment. Approximately 100,000 tons were delivered to the Vacuum and Shell refineries. The refineries of the Austrian Petroleum Administration (OeMV) processed 800,000 tons. The yield from the crude oil was as follows: gasoline 14%, petroleum 9%, gas oil 26%, fuel oil 45%, lubricating oil 2.5% and bitumen 1.5%.

OeMV's natural gas production during the first half of the year was 177.8 million cubic meters of wet gas and 189.5 million cubic meters of dry gas. With the onset of warmer weather, this production has been curtailed. Since in the case of wet gas such curtailment is possible only by limiting

oil production, reductions have applied primarily to deliveries from wells supplying natural gas exclusively.

During the period under consideration, 710 oil wells and 40 natural gas wells were in daily operation; 85 productive wells have gone into operation since the OeMV took over the oil plants in August 1955. Plans call for the drilling of an additional 60 to 70 wells during the second half of 1956. On the basis of output figures to date, total oil production during 1956 is expected to reach approximately 3.3 million tons.

Expenditures of large amounts are scheduled in connection with the expansion of oil production. The funds in question will be used for the construction of roads and for improving the utilization of natural gas. The construction program also calls for a new gasoline production plant, a gas-drying installation, compressor stations and 50-km. high-pressure lines.

ECONOMIC STABILITY MAINTAINED. A survey of the Austrian economy during the second quarter of 1956 presents a definitely optimistic picture. The economic situation exhibits certain boom characteristics, although last year's unmistakable signs of a sudden upward trend have now receded. A decline in the rate of increase of the gross national product is expected. There has been a noticeable shift in the field of production, with the output of consumer goods moving increasingly into the foreground. As a result, the necessary consolidation of capital goods production is being made possible. This economic phase can in no sense be considered a setback, since employment is above its normal seasonal level and foreign trade is also developing favorably. An especially positive factor is the reduction in Austria's trade deficit, resulting from export promotion rather than from limitations on imports.

REDUCED TRADE DEFICIT. According to foreign trade statistics thus far available, the value of Austrian imports has risen from the May figure of \$81.5 million to \$82.6 million, while the export figure has jumped from \$68.5 to \$74.9 million. This favorable development, especially with respect to the export picture, means that Austria's foreign trade deficit has been reduced from \$12.9 to \$7.6 million. A comparison of the figures for the first half of 1956 with those for the comparable period of 1955 shows an increase in imports from \$420.3 to \$469.0 million, or a rise of 11.6 per cent. The increase in exports, however, was much higher, having risen from \$327.8 to \$404.8 million, or 23.5 per cent. Accordingly, the foreign trade deficit has been reduced by 30.7 per cent.

BLAST STEEL IN THE U.S. AND CANADA. Two steel plants currently under construction in the United States and designed to reach a total annual capacity of 1.5 million tons of raw steel, will operate on the basis of the blast-steel process developed in Austria. The first American plant to adopt this type of production was the McLouth Company, whose output reached 600,000 tons last year. As a result of these developments, more than 2 million tons of raw steel will be produced in the United States by the Austrian method

within the next year.

Talks were recently held in this connection at the Consolidated Austrian Steel Works (VOeEST) in Linz between Kaiser Engineers, an American steel company acting as general licensee for the United States, and the Brassert-Oxygen-Technik A.G. of Zuerich, the holder of all patents on the blast-steel process. Kaiser Engineers have already concluded sublicensing agreements with Jones and Laughlin and with Kaiser Steel, two American steel companies, for carrying out operations in accordance with the process. Dominion Foundries and Steel Ltd., the general licensee for Canada, also sent a delegation to Linz for the purpose of discussing problems connected with further collaboration in the field of blast-steel production. Work will start shortly on a second Canadian blast-steel plant.

RUSSIAN-IMPOSED STREET NAMES TO DISAPPEAR IN VIENNA. Street names imposed by the Russians in Vienna during the period of the occupation are now to disappear. According to a request of both the Socialist and People's parties, the Vienna Municipal Council has taken steps to restore the original names. Among others, "Stalinplatz" will become Schwarzenbergplatz, the "Bridge of the Red Army" Reichsbruecke (see cut), the "Malinowsky Bridge"



*Viennese Streetcar
Carrying the News*

Floridsdorferbruecke and the "Tolbucharstrasse" Laxenburgerstrasse.

The Moscow "Pravda" commented upon the measure under the headline "An Unfriendly Act". The street names that have been changed were "an expression of the feeling of friendship and gratitude of the Austrian population towards

the Soviet army", the paper maintained. Stating that the feelings of the Austrian people towards the Soviet Union are still as friendly as they had been before, "Pravda" charged that "evidently there are some people in Austria who aim to destroy this feeling in the hearts of the Austrian people... This is why a decision has been reached that can be interpreted only as an unfriendly act against the Soviet people."

RELEASE OF 27 MILLION DOLLARS IN COUNTERPART FUNDS. United States Ambassador Llewellyn E. Thompson recently informed the Austrian Chancellor that the United States Government was authorizing the release of 27 million dollars in counterpart funds.

Together with 9.6 million dollars in loans from the U.S. Farm Surpluses Program, the 27 million dollars in question will be used for implementing an investment program in the amount of 40.4 million dollars. The Federal Government has reached a decision concerning the utilization of these funds, giving priority to productive programs in the field of power production, agriculture, forestry, industry and the tourist trade. It is planned to give special encouragement to medium and small industries, which do not have the opportunity to raise investment funds on the capital market. In the field of agriculture and forestry, there are plans for encouraging small farm holdings by making funds available to tenants and small-holders for purchasing land. Special attention will also be devoted to the tourist industry's requirements with regard to depreciation of facilities.

SALZBURG TO BECOME "CONGRESS CITY." A "Congress Office" has now been established in Salzburg with a view to promoting Salzburg as a "City of Congresses." The unit has drawn up a program providing for the implementation in the near future of a variety of projects in the economic and cultural fields. A modern congress building which will meet the most exacting requirements is scheduled for completion by the end of the year. The structure, probably the most up-to-date of its kind in Western Europe, will be opened at the end of the year. The "Congress Office" has already drawn up an extremely crowded schedule of future activities.

CULTURE AND SCIENCE

JOSEFSTAEDTER ENSEMBLE, EN ROUTE TO NEW YORK, REPORT SOUTH AMERICAN TRIUMPH. The management of Vienna's Theater in der Josefstadt has received the following cable concerning the premiere of its ensemble's guest appearance in Buenos Aires: "Huge success, performance stopped by applause 12 times... Sold out."

The repertory included Oscar Wilde's "An Ideal Husband", Felicitas Douglas' "Die liebe Familie" and Fritz Eckhardt's "Rendezvous in Wien", the latter to be performed in New York under the patronage of the Austrian Ambassador, Dr. Karl Gruber; the gala premiere is scheduled for September 4. According to the company's New York manager, Mr. Felix Gerstmann, tickets can now be obtained through his office at 140 West 42nd Street, telephone LO 4-6990.

VIENNA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA ANNOUNCES CONDUCTORS FOR COMING SEASON. The management of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra has announced its conductors for the 1956/57 season. Conductors will be on September 22 and 23, Dimitri Mitropoulos; October 13 and 14, Carl Schuricht; October 27 and 28, Andre Cluytens; December 29 and 30, Eugene Ormandy; January 26 and 27, Hans Knappertsbusch; February 16 and 17, Karl Boehm; March 2 and 3, Rafael Kubelik; March 9 and 10, in commemoration of Wilhelm Furtwängler, Karl Boehm; April 27 and 28, Karl Boehm; May 25 and 26, Mario Rossi.

VIENNA SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA TO TOUR SYRIA, ITALY AND POLAND. The Vienna Symphonic Orchestra under its conductor Heinrich Hollreiser will present six concerts at the Damascus International Fair. The programme includes works by Bach, Mozart, Brahms, Schubert, Schumann, Tschaikovsky, Moussorgsky, Liszt, and Johann Strauss. The orchestra will then travel to Italy in late September and will appear before the audience of the "Sagra Musicale" in Perugia. Michael Gielen will conduct the orchestra at the international "Festival of Contemporary Music" in Warsaw, October 1956.

ENGLISH LITERATURE CONTEST WON BY AUSTRIAN AUTHOR. The contest sponsored by the International English Language Association, London, has awarded its first prize to Gertrud Ruckschlo for her novel "Time Will Heal", written in English. Gertrud Ruckschlo has already published a number of radio scripts and translated English and Scandinavian books. At present she works on a youth-book on pioneers of mountain climbing in the Alps.

SALZBURG EXHIBITION OF RELIGIOUS ART TO BECOME ANNUAL INSTITUTION. On the occasion of the ceremonial opening of the international exhibition of "Contemporary Religious Art" in the Salzburg Cathedral, attending representatives of numerous European countries decided for a permanent organization of this exhibition in Salzburg. The Archbishop of Salzburg, Dr. Andreas Rohracher, has assumed sponsorship of the projected institution and Governor Dr. Josef Klaus was elected trustee.

The exhibition, shown in the newly and magnificently restored oratories of the Salzburg Cathedral, is a composite representation of the production of religious art by contemporary artists.

INNSBRUCK FESTIVALS TO BEGIN IN 1957. The discussions relating to the organization of festivals in Innsbruck have progressed so far that the first performances in the series will take place in the Tyrolean capital during the summer of 1957. The Festival events will be produced by Egon Hilbert, former head of the Vienna Opera and Burgtheater, and Oskar Werner, the star of "Decision before Dawn." It is planned to engage Josef Gielen, Lothar Muethel and Harald Benesch as stage directors.

Since the festivals in Salzburg concentrate on opera and symphonic concerts and those of Bregenz on operettas, Innsbruck is planning to place the emphasis on great works for the theater and on concerts with outstanding soloists. The first year's productions will include Shakespeare's

"Hamlet," Schiller's "Don Carlos" and Grillparzer's "Weh dem, der liegt."

BRUNO WALTER AWARDED MOZART MEDAL. The "Golden Mozart Medal," the highest award of the International Mozarteum Foundation, was recently presented to Bruno Walter during a ceremony held at the house in which Mozart was born.

MAERZENDORFER APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF SALZBURG THEATER. Ernst Maerzendorfer, conductor of the Salzburg Mozarteum Orchestra on its successful guest appearances in the United States, will be in charge of opera productions at the Salzburg Landestheater for an eight-month period beginning September 1, 1956. The new director has already announced his intention of staging Richard Strauss' "Salome" with the famous soprano Christl Goltz.

MITROPOULOS TO CONDUCT AT VIENNA STATE OPERA. Dimitri Mitropoulos has accepted an invitation by Herbert Karajan, artistic director of the Vienna State Opera to become one of that company's regular guest conductors. Mitropoulos has also agreed to conduct a number of performances at the 1957 Salzburg Festival.

"AMERICAN DAY" IN CARINTHIA. The "American Day"—an institution which has already taken root in a number of countries—was recently celebrated in Austria for the first time. The event, organized by the Austrian-American Society, took place in Carinthia. U.S. Ambassador Llewellyn E. Thompson and Governor Wedenig addressed the gathering.

SALZBURG FESTIVAL DIRECTORATE ISSUES POLICY STATEMENT. The Board of Directors of the Salzburg Festivals has issued the following statement in connection with the future programming of the Festivals:

Karl Boehm, the conductor; Oskar Fritz Schuh, the stage designer; and Casper Neher, the stage designer, have indicated willingness to continue their collaboration with the Festivals.

Gottfried Einem will lend his services in the capacity of chairman of the Council on Artistic Affairs, which will continue the advisory activity it has been carrying on in the past.

Herbert Karajan, Chief Artistic Director, considers that one of his duties is to include contemporary compositions in the program of the Salzburg Festivals. The first steps in this direction are the performance of Rolf Liebermann's opera "Schule der Frauen" and the planned performance of a new opera by Samuel Barber and Giancarlo Menotti, as well as one by Bohuslav Martinu.

The Board of Directors has expressed its fullest confidence in Mr. Karajan.

VIENNA OPERA TOURS CANCELLED. Herbert Karajan, newly appointed artistic director of the Vienna State Opera, declared that he is planning to concentrate on local performances before considering appearance abroad; as a result, all foreign tours have been cancelled for an indefinite period.

PEIPIING OPERA TO APPEAR IN VIENNA. On October 13, 14 and 15, the Peiping opera company will make a series of guest appearances at Vienna's Volkstheater. Technical

problems are considerably reduced by virtue of the fact that the guests are bringing along their own costumes, sets and properties and that they require no orchestra space, the accompanying musicians being installed at the back of the stage. The Peiping ensemble, made up of 80 members, was the outstanding hit of the Paris Festival. Before coming to Vienna, it will appear in Scandinavia and Germany.

ROSEN TO STAGE MORE MUSICALS AT VOLKSOPER. Heinz Rosen, stage director of the successful Vienna production of "Kiss Me Kate," which has already had a run of more than 50 performances, has been charged with the stage direction of two other musicals that are to be produced during the 1956-57 season. According to preliminary reports, the works which he will stage are Leonard Bernstein's "Wonderful Town" (October 1956) and Irving Berlin's "Annie Get Your Gun" (February 1957).

SMITH COLLEGE SINGERS IN SALZBURG. Salzburg music lovers recently had an opportunity to attend a concert given by the Smith College Chamber Singers during their fourth European tour. The performance, which took place at Leopoldskron Castle, was also attended by teachers and students participating in the American Seminar. The chorus of Smith College in Massachusetts, directed by Iva Dee Hiatt, made a previous appearance at Leopoldskron in 1951. This year's concert, too, earned warm plaudits from the public and the press.

CHEE KONG WAS NUMBER 7,000. The international summer courses of the University of Innsbruck, currently being held at Mayrhofen in Tyrol, are now in their tenth year. Celebrations in honor of the founding of the summer school were recently held in connection with the opening of the Third Course, being attended by 310 persons from 23 countries. The new students were welcomed by the Rector of Innsbruck University. In the group was Chee Kong of Indonesia, the 7000th participant in the courses.

REBITSCH REPORTS ON EXPEDITION. At a press conference organized by the Ministry of Education, Matthias Rebitsch, the Tyrolean Mountaineer, reported on the sensational discoveries dating from the Inca period which he made during the course of the Austrian-Swedish expedition to the Andes which he lead in 1955-56. The expedition visited the Puna de Atacama, a salt and stone desert in the border area between Argentina, Chile and Bolivia, where the volcanic peaks reach heights of as much as 23,000 ft.

The speaker indicated that this desert was probably heavily inhabited at one time. Five years ago, a native of Salzburg now living in Argentina had discovered the ruins of walls, which he considered to be graves, on the peak of Cerro Gallan, which is approximately 20,000 ft high. Rebitsch and his associates explored these ruins more closely. Although the high altitude and the extreme cold make the work very difficult, Rebitsch was able to make excavations in three of the wall formations, measuring 4.2 ft. x 5.2 ft. and having a height of 3.2 ft. On the first day of their excavations, Rebitsch and Mr. and Mrs. Bolinder, of Sweden, discovered three stone clubs ringed in the middle and also some charred pieces of wood. The following day, continuing the digging by himself, Rebitsch found a silver figurine clothed

in a poncho, its head decorated with red parrot feathers. On the following day, he unearthed another figurine, a masterpiece of sculptural art. Remaining on the peak for a third day, he found yet another figure. Rebitsch explained the unusual freshness and luminosity of the color of the materials in which the figurines were dressed on the basis of the climatic conditions prevailing in these 20,000-ft. altitudes. The figurines lay in an absolutely dry vault sealed by a layer of ice, which had preserved them for many centuries.

GOLD MEDAL FOR "THE LAST TEN DAYS." The Austrian film "The Last Ten Days" has been awarded a gold medal at the Edinburgh Film Festival. This means that it will be one of the pictures coming under consideration for the golden wreath donated by David O. Selznik. The other films contending for this top honor include the British production "The David Heart" and the two Italian pictures "Maddalena" and "Umberto" by Vittorio de Sica. The golden wreath is awarded annually to the best non-American film contributing to unity between nations.

ILSE AICHINGER WINS IMMERMANN PRIZE. Ilse Aichinger, the Austrian novelist, has been named the 1955 winner of the Immermann Prize, an award of the city of Duesseldorf. Works by Miss Aichinger, who was born in 1921, have been translated into English, French and Swedish. She is also the holder of the Austrian National Prize for Literature, the Bremen Prize for Literature and the Prize for Cultural Achievement sponsored by German Industry.



STUDYING PROOFS OF "LIFE"-STORY

is Dr. Heinrich Schneider, high-school teacher from Vienna, one of a party of six Austrian Fulbright scholars aboard the "Andrea Doria" on the liner's last journey. Dr. Schneider somehow managed to make a photographic record of what happened around him on the sinking ship, a singular feat that won him wide recognition and ample coverage in "Life" magazine.

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION

PUBLISHED BY THE

AUSTRIAN INFORMATION SERVICE

31 EAST 65th STREET • NEW YORK 21, N.Y. • TELEPHONE LEHIGH 3-4120



Div. of Documents
Library of Congress
Washington, 25, D.C.

